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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 04622 091335Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------091343Z 095090 /41
O 091207Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3361

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4622

FOR DOUG BENNETT: PLEASE PASS THIS MSG TO SENATOR PELL
FOR ME--FOR SENATOR PELL FROM DICK MOOSE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJ: ACCREDITATION TO THE SEYCHELLES

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED YOUR CONCERN OVER REPRESENTATION IN THE SEYCHELLES WITH SOME OF OUR CHIEFS OF MISSION SERVING IN THAT AREA WHO ARE HERE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. THEIR VIEW, WITH WHICH I HAVE COME TO CONCUR, IS THAT MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE LACK OF A SEYCHELLES EMBASSY IN THE US COULD WELL CAUSE HARM TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. MOREOVER, OUR STANCE COULD BE INTERPRETED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AS THE BULLYING OF A SMALL NATION BY A SUPER-POWER.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE SEYCHELLES ARE SMALL, LIGHTLY POPULATED AND POOR BY ANY STANDARD (GNP ABOUT US DOLLARS 20 MILLION). FOR US TO SAY (OR SEEM TO BE SAYING) THAT THEY OUGHT TO EXPEND SOME OF THEIR SCARCE AND HARD EARNED FOREIGN EXCHANGE ON ESTABLISING COSTLY EMBASSIES ABROAD WOULD PLACE US IN A PECULAR POSITION. WE WOULD SEEM TO BE RECOMMENDING EXTRAVAGANCE TO AN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY WHICH MUST PURSUE STRINGENT FISCAL POLICIES TO SURVIVE AND MAINTAIN ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
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INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT MOST PROBABLY INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN THE US (TO COVER THE UN AS WELL) BUT IS TAKING ITS TIME WHILE FOCUSING ON OTHER PRIORITIES ENFORCED BY ITS ACCESSION TO INDPENDENCE. THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN INDEPENDENT LESS

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THAN A YEAR. I BELIEVE THEY HAVE YET TO ESTABLISH
AN EMBASSY ANYWHERE OTHER THAN IN BRITAIN, WHERE
THEY HAVE CLOSE HISTORICAL TIES.

4. THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE SIGNIFICANT
DIFFERENCES FROM THE MALDIVES CASE, WHERE YOU TOOK
A SIMILAR STANCE EARLIER. THESE ARE:
A. THE MALDIVES HAD FAILED TO ESTABLISH A MISSION A NUMBER
OF YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER WE HAD ACCREDITED NON-
RESIDENTAMBASSADORS FROM SRI LANKA SEVERAL TIMES.

B. WE ALREADY HAVE A VERY SMALL EMBASSY IN THE SEYCHELLES
UNDER A CHARGE, SO THE FAILURE TO ACCREDIT A NON-RESIDENT
CHIEF OF MISSION WOULD SEEM AS PERHAPS PERVERSE
AND GRATUITOUS.

C. WE HAD AND HAVE NO REALLY SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS IN THE
MALDIVES, WHERAS WE HAVE THE TRACKING STATION, A NUMBER
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT AND VISITING AND QUITE
GOOD POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE SEYCHELLES.

5. DELAYING THE CONFIRMATION OF WILL LEMELLE FOR
THE SEYCHELLES HAS ALREADY MADE THE POINT YOU
INTENDED, I BELIEVE, AND I AM CONCERNED THAT MORE
NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES THAN WE WOULD WISH COULD
RESULT FROM AN OVER-EMPHASIS ON THIS QUESTION.
I THINK FOR US TO LEAN FURTHER ON THE SEYCHELLES
AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH OUR BEST
INTERESTS. STEARNS
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: ACCREDITATION TO THE SEYCHELLES
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